

Best Management Practices For Special Events

During a rainfall event, water flows from the event site via storm drains and directly into the rivers without any treatment. The rain water will pick up pollutants such as trash, oil, or anything else left behind from your vendors and guests of your event. As a participant, your organization can be proactive and prevent any stormwater violations. The cost to clean up pollutants once they are in the stormline or Waters of the State can be several thousand dollars. To help you comply with the federal, state, and local stormwater regulations, we have outlined some Best Management Practices for you and your vendors to follow.

It is your responsibility to inform all vendors and participants at your event of proper stormwater management practices.

Best Management Practices

The objective in stormwater protection is that only rain goes down the drain. Best Management Practices are specific steps that are taken in order to prevent pollution from entering the storm sewer system at your event. All employees and vendors shall review this information sheet as a training tool and make every possible effort to keep pollutants from entering the storm sewer system.

Contact Information:

**To report an illicit discharge, contact the City of Columbus Stormwater Hotline at
614-645-STREAM (7873)**

Contracts and Leases

- If you have contracts with vendors participating in your event or companies hired to help with cleanup, include language requiring them to be educated and responsible for proper stormwater management.
- Put this language in any contract into which you enter.

Waste Management and Disposal

- Be sure adequate receptacles are provided for use by vendors and guests to prevent litter.
- All waste receptacles (dumpsters) must be sturdy, leak-tight, and equipped with lids or covers. Keep all outdoor receptacles closed unless adding or removing wastes.
- Do not wash out any receptacles outdoors unless wastewater is collected and disposed of properly.
- Be sure containers are emptied as needed to prevent overflow.
- It is also important they are emptied at the end of each day.

Portable Toilets

- Be sure they are serviced frequently to prevent any overflows or leaks.
- Require your vendor to take the means necessary to prevent the portable toilets from being knocked or blown over.
- Do not place toilets next to or over a storm drain.

Grease Management

- Have spill cleanup material on hand and clean up spills immediately.
- Protect the ground under and around your cooking area using tar paper or cardboard.
- Properly dispose of all grease into an approved collection bin.

Waste Water Management (Gray Water Containers)

- Provide disposal containers for your vendors to prevent having this waste water discharged to the environment.
- Keep the disposal containers out of sight of the guests to prevent them from using the containers as trash cans.

Pressure Washing and Outdoor Cleaning

- Use dry cleanup methods to collect litter and absorb any liquid wastes prior to any pressure washing. These include using absorbents (e.g. "Oil-Dri," kitty litter, rags, sand, etc.), sweeping, and scraping off dried debris.
- Prior to pressure washing, identify where all storm drains are located. Wash water must not be discharged onto paved surfaces or allowed to enter the storm drains.
- Determine where water will pool for collection.
- Use the following types of equipment to protect storm drains and to contain and collect wash water: vacuum pumps, booms/ berms, portable containment areas, storm drain covers, inflatable sewer plug, oil/water separators, holding tanks, portable sump pumps, hoses, and absorbents. Using wet vacs is also another acceptable method of collection.
- Once water is collected, dispose of it properly.

For additional information or questions in regards to stormwater pollution prevention, please contact Jeff Vesco with the City of Columbus Stormwater Section at 614-645-0362.